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Bd. Oct. 1861.







HISTORY OF MONTPELIER.



HISTORY OF MONTPELIER:

A

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED IN

THE BRICK CHURCH, MONTPELIER, VERMONT,

ON

THANKSGIVING DAY, DEC. 8, 1843.

BY REV. JOHN GRIDLEY,

Pastor of said Church.

REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD, CONSIDER THE YEARS OF MANY GENERATIONS: ASK THY FATHER, AND HE WILL SHEW THEE; THY ELDERS, AND THEY WILL TELL THEE.—Deuteronomy, 32: 7.

MONTPELIER:  
E. P. WALTON AND SONS.  
1843.

U S 12372, 5, 5

~~H336, 42~~

1853, June 1.

Gift of

Sam'l. T. Green, LL.D.,  
of Boston.

(Case of 1851.)

## DISCOURSE.

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INQUIRY is eminently an attribute of the human mind. It is early developed, in childhood; and instead of being satisfied by ascertainment, in the various periods of life, it gathers strength by exercise, and pushes on from one step to another—from one object to another—with greater or less vigour, while consciousness endures. This is by no means to be rebuked, when directed in proper channels; for it is lawful and right, and God invites us to it, by the wonders of his works, providence, and grace.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELLIER  
Introduction.

'There is no object more interesting, about which to institute Inquiry, than a history of the past; and certainly none more replete with particulars, that can be made definitely the subject of it. We may be delighted in the contemplation of what IS TO BE,—and dwell upon the visions of the future, as rapturously as our faith in their reality will permit; still, the study of the past instinctively dignifies Inquiry, and crowns it with the greater satisfaction, because IT HAS BEEN !

In meeting you, on this our anniversary of special praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, I have selected a subject for your entertainment and instruction, somewhat unusual and dry,—though I flatter myself one which will accumulate interest in the consideration

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER. of it, because it so intimately concerns yourselves; for I  
Introduction. doubt not you will honor my reasoning, when I maintain, that what concerns us, should not fail to interest us. The subject to which I allude, is the early settlement and growth of the town in which we live, comprising mainly a period of half a century.

In detailing this history I shall state such facts as have come to my knowledge from various sources of information, believed to be authentic, whether found in the public records, or in conversation with aged individuals and others.

Condition of the state. Before proceeding directly to the subject I have announced, it will be proper to take a hasty glance at the political affairs of Vermont, at the period when the town of Montpelier\* was granted by charter to the original proprietors named in the instrument.

~~1777.~~ The territory, now the state of Vermont, was for a long time previous to 1777 the subject of a fierce dispute between New Hampshire and New York, and the settlers on the territory,—New Hampshire and New York claiming each, a part, or all the territory as being under its jurisdiction, while the Vermonters themselves struggled against the claims of both. The war of the revolution, which commenced in 1775, was felt severely in its ravages, on our northern frontiers, and upon lake Champlain, and the country bordering it; and the then territory of Vermont shared largely in the sufferings and dangers incident to the war. As a community, they assured Congress they were willing to bear their proportion, whether of men or treasure, that

\* The city in France named Montpellier, the capital of Herault—five miles from the sea on a declivity,—as has been suggested by a gentleman of this village, probably derived its name from two Latin words, *monti* and *pellor*—meaning, to be driven back to the mountain.

1777.

Declaration  
of Indepen-  
dence.

the defence of the country might call for ; but at the same time insisted against the claims of New Hampshire and New York. This state of things continued until the winter of 1777, when a convention of delegates, which had previously met in July and September of 1776, in Dorset, according to their adjournment met at Westminster, January 15th of this year, and on the next day published to the world a Declaration of Independence,—that they were “a free and independent Jurisdiction or State,”—to be forever thereafter called, known and distinguished by the name of NEW CONNECTICUT, alias VERMONT. This act of firmness and decision, gave increased strength to the position heretofore assumed by the inhabitants of Vermont, and “evinced the wisdom and boldness of her statesmen.”

Numerous grants and charters had been made of towns, in various parts of the state, long before the time of which we are now speaking.\* Several towns had been organized in the now county of Washington, viz. Berlin, Middlesex and Waterbury, and a still larger number had been charted in the county, when a grant was made, by the Governor and Council and House of Representatives, of this town, to Timothy Bigelow and others, as follows.

Grant of the  
charter.

FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
21ST OCTOBER, 1780.

“The committee appointed to take into consideration the ungranted lands in this state, and the several pitches on file in the Secretary’s office, &c., brought in the following report, viz :

\* Very little was done toward the settlement of Vermont, previous to 1760. From that year the population of the state began to increase with considerable rapidity. In 1761, no less than sixty townships of six miles square were granted on the west side of Connecticut river.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

“ That it is our opinion, the following tract of land, viz :  
 1780. lying east of and adjoining Middlesex on Onion river, and  
 partly north of Berlin, containing 23040 acres, be granted  
 by Assembly unto Col. Timothy Bigelow and Company  
 by the name of MONTPELIER.

[Signed,] PAUL SPOONER, Chairman.”

“ The aforesaid Report was read and accepted, and Resolved, that there be, and hereby is granted unto Col. Timothy Bigelow and Company, being sixty in number, a township of land by the name of MONTPELIER, situate and lying in this state, bounded as follows, viz: lying east of and adjoining to Middlesex on Onion river, and partly north of Berlin, containing 23040 acres. And the Governor and Council are hereby requested to issue a grant or charter of incorporation of said township of Montpelier, under such restrictions, reservations, and for such considerations, as they shall judge best for the benefit of the state.”

“ SATURDAY, IN COUNCIL, 21ST OCTOBER, 1780.

Cost £480,

“ The Governor and Council, to whom was referred the stating the fees for the grant of land made this day by the General Assembly of this state, having had the same under consideration, have stated the fees aforesaid, at Four hundred and Eighty pounds for the said Land, being one Township by the name of Montpelier, in hard money, or an equivalent in Continental Currency; to be paid by Col. Timothy Bigelow, or his Attorney, on the execution of the Charter of Incorporation on or before the 20th day of January next.

“ £480. Attest, JOSEPH FAY, Sec'y.”

## THANKSGIVING DISCOURSE

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER

1781.

A charter was subsequently made out and signed by Thomas Chittenden, Governor, and countersigned by Thos. Tolman, Deputy Secretary, dated August 14th, 1781, to Timothy Bigelow, named in the grant, and the following persons associated with him, viz : Ebenezer Waters, Ebenezer Upham, Elisha Wales, Elisha Smith Wales, Joel Frizzle, Bethuel Washburn, Jno. Washburn, Elijah Rood, Thomas Chittenden, George Foot, Elisha Smith, Jedediah Strong, James Prescott, Jacob Brown, Gideon Ormsby, James Mead, John W. Dana, Timothy Brownson, Gideon Horton, Matthew Lyon, Sam'l Horsford, Ithamar Horsford, Wm. Smith, Jacob Spear, Jonas Galusha, Mary Galusha, Noah Smith, Moses Robinson, Moses Robinson Jr., John Fasset Jr., Jonas Fay, Abiathar Waldo, Thomas Tolman, Timothy Stanley, Joseph Daggett, Ira Allen, Lyman Hitchcock, James Gamble, Alanson Douglass, Adam Martin, the heirs of Isaac Nash, Jonathan Bruce, Howell Woodbridge, James Bruce, Henry Walbridge Jr., Joseph Fay, Wm. Goodrich, Sybill Goodrich, Thomas Matterson, Amos Waters, David Galusha, Jacob Davis, Ephraim Starkweather, Shubell Peck, Jacob Davis Jr., Thomas Davis, John Ramsdell, Issachar Read, Isaac G. Lansingh, Ebenezer Davis, Levi Davis, Asa Davis, Ebenezer Stone, and Samuel Allen.

By the charter there were five rights set apart and reserved for the following uses, viz: one for a seminary or college, one for county grammar schools in the state, one for the settlement of a minister in the township, one for the support of the gospel in said town, and one for the support of common schools. Each proprietor was to build a house, at least eighteen feet square, on his right, and cul- Rights re-  
served, &c.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

tivate at least five acres, (or cause it to be done,) within three years after "the circumstances of the war would permit," or forfeit his claim.

1784. The proprietors under this charter first met at Arlington, <sup>First meeting of pro-</sup> June 11th, 1784, by a warning from Eliakim Stoddard, Justice of the Peace, "to transact such business as seemed necessary." Whereupon Major Gideon Ormsby was chosen moderator of the meeting, Thomas Tolman, Esq. clerk of the "Proprietary," and Jonas Galusha, Esq. treasurer. At that meeting it was voted to lay out a division of land of one hundred and fifty acres, and a committee of six was appointed to carry this into execution. That meeting was adjourned to the first Monday in April next, (1785,) to meet at the house of Mr. Tolman, in Arlington, at 2 o'clock P. M.

1785-6. This adjourned meeting was neglected to be held, and accordingly on the 26th September, 1785, another meeting of the proprietors was called, to be holden at Arlington on the second Wednesday of January, 1786. At this meeting Col. Timothy Brownson was chosen moderator, and Mr. Tolman appointed clerk. The number of acres appointed to each lot at the last meeting was confirmed, and five acres added for roads. Suitable arrangements were made for having the town surveyed, and a committee appointed to carry their plans into execution. A proposal was accepted from Col. Jacob Davis to perform the labor of surveying the first division of the town for the sum of £1 3s. 10d. L. M. per right, "counting sixty-five rights;" although, as appears from the town records, Ebenezer Waters was accounted the surveyor, especially of the first <sup>Survey ord-  
ered.</sup>

division—and indeed of all the divisions,—Col. Jacob Davis and Nathan Waldo being chainmen. Mr. Parley Davis also aided in the surveys. The first division of the town was accordingly surveyed into seventy lots ; each lot containing one hundred and fifty-five acres—there being five acres allowance in each lot for highways. The north boundary of this first division is Calais.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

1786.

In the spring of 1786, Joel Frizzle, one of the proprietors, made the first attempt to settle in this town. He was a hunter and trapper. He “ felled a few trees, planted a little corn among the logs, after the Indian fashion, and erected a very small log cabin on the bank of the Winooski river, in the south-west corner of this township, on the farm lately owned by Mr. John Walton ; and moved his family, himself and wife—a little French woman,—into it from Canada, the same season.”

First attempt  
to settle in  
the town.

At a meeting of the proprietors, held at Arlington the next year, January 9th, 1787, the survey of the first division was submitted, accepted, and recorded, under the following vote :—“ That the plan of the first division, as now brought in by the committee, be entered in this book (the Book of Records,) on a convenient scale ; and also that the survey bill of each lot in said division be recorded.” At this meeting also, the appointment of Jonas Galusha, Esq., as treasurer to the company, in August, 1784, was confirmed, and Joseph Daggett was appointed collector of taxes. Also at this meeting arrangements were made for the survey of the second, and of the third divisions of the town ; the former into lots of one hundred and twenty acres, and allowance of four acres for highways to each lot. The lat-

1787.

ter division, was to be into lots as large as a given territory, 1787. called "Pine Pitch" division, divided into seventy parts, would allow. These surveys, Col. Jacob Davis agreed also to complete for the sum of £1 8s. 0d. per right. The final result shewed, that the third division of the territory of white pine timber into seventy parts, gave one-fourth of an acre per lot.

At a subsequent meeting, held at Arlington, June 11th, 1787, at the house occupied by Capt. Elisha Wales, these surveys were accepted, and ordered to be recorded, and a tax voted, to pay the expenses which had accrued, for surveying, clerkship, &c. &c.

First permanent settlement.

The first permanent clearing and settlement was made in town this spring. "On the 4th of May, 1787, Col. Jacob Davis, and Gen. Parley Davis, from Charlton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with one hired man, and one horse, each loaded with pork, flour, beans, and other necessaries, cooking utensils, and a set of surveyor's instruments, belonging to Gen. Davis, the well known surveyor of a great part of this section of the state, having arrived the day previous from Brookfield, through Berlin, at the mouth of Dog River, and crossed over Winooski river to the house of Seth Putnam," in Middlesex, "near Montpelier line, cut out a road to the hunters' camp, on the site now occupied by the jail-house in Montpelier Village; when Col. Davis and his hired man commenced clearing up the meadow on the west side of the Little North Branch, now known as State Street."\* The spot cleared was that which would

\*As late as 1806, all of State street was included in a cornfield, and the river road to Middlesex was along or near where Court street now is.

include where the large brick building of Mr. Rufus R. Kiker now stands.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

Another meeting was held at Arlington, Jan. 8th, 1788, 1788. at the house of Lt. Abel Aylsworth, at which arrangements were made for cutting out roads still further than had been already done, and for defraying expenses already incurred. Col. Jacob Davis and Parley Davis, were the contractors for making roads in said town; and at a meeting of the proprietors, held at Shaftsbury, June 4th, 1788, it was voted to allow the account of Col. Davis and Parley Davis for making roads, amounting to £58 10s. At this meeting also, a tax was voted of 19s. 6d. L. M. on each right in said township, (public rights excepted,) to defray the expense of making highways, &c.

It appears from the records of the town, that during the years 1787 and 1788, there were several sales, according to law, of lands belonging to individual proprietors of this township, at vendue, to defray the taxes imposed for cutting highways, &c. and other expenses; and that Col. Jacob Davis and Parley Davis were quite extensive purchasers of the lands thus sold.

The town was organized in March, 1791, in the following manner. Jacob Davis, Clark Stevens, and Jonathan Cutler, signed the following petition to John Taplin, Esq. a Justice of the Peace of the town of Berlin :

1791.  
Organization  
of the town.

“ The petition of the subscribers, inhabitants and free-holders of the town of Montpelier, prays your honor to issue a warrant for calling a meeting of the inhabitants of said town, for the purpose of organizing said town.

March 4th, 1791.”

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

Upon which Justice Taplin issued the following warrant :—

1791. Organization "ORANGE SS." { To Clark Stevens, one of the principal inhabitants of the town of Montpelier,

GREETING.

" By the authority of the State of Vermont, you are hereby required to warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Montpelier, to meet at the dwelling-house of Jacob Davis, in said Montpelier, on Tuesday the 29th day of March instant, at nine of the clock in the morning, to act on the following articles, viz :

1. To choose a moderator to govern said meeting.
2. To choose a clerk, selectmen, treasurer, and all other town officers.
3. To see if said town will choose some proper person to remove the proprietors' Records into said town.

" Given under my hand at Berlin, this 8th day of March, 1791."

First town  
meeting.

This warrant was served as directed, and at the meeting held in pursuance of it, the following persons were chosen town officers :

Officers cho-  
sen.

- Col. Jacob Davis, was chosen Moderator.
- Ziba Woodworth, Town Clerk.
- James Hawkins, First Selectman.
- James Taggart, Second Selectman.
- Hiram Peck, Third Selectman.
- Jonathan Cutler, Town Treasurer.
- Parley Davis, Constable and Collector.
- Josiah Hurlburt, Solomon Dodge, Benjamin I. Wheeler, Highway Surveyors.

Jacob Davis, Benjamin Ingals Wheeler, Clark Stevens,  
Listers.

HISTORY OF

MONTPELIER.

1791.

Col. Jacob Davis, Fence Viewer.

These several persons were sworn into office according to law. Benjamin I. Wheeler was the Grand Juror first chosen in the town who accepted the office.

In 1791 the population of the town numbered one hundred and seventeen. Of these, twenty-seven were free-men, who were present at the organization of the town, and very soon other respectable individuals became residents. Ten of the twenty-seven original freemen are now living, and it is believed so also are the wives of their youth.\* (See Appendix A.)

The first election of a representative to the General Assembly for this town was made September 4th, 1792; and he was Col. Jacob Davis. The Assembly was to meet at Rutland, on the second Tuesday of the succeeding October. At this election also twenty-four votes were given for Thomas Chittenden, Governor, and twenty votes for Peter Olcott, Lieutenant Governor, and twelve votes for Samuel Mattocks, Treasurer.

The first votes given in this town for a Representative to Congress from the Eastern District of Vermont, comprehending the counties of Windham, Windsor and Orange, (the last named county being that in which Montpelier was included,) were at a town meeting held January 7th, 1793, when the Hon. Elijah Paine received two votes, and the Hon. Paul Brigham twelve votes.

1792.

First free-men's meeting.

1793.

Votes for member of Congress.

\*Another circumstance worthy of remark is, that those persons who were the first settlers in this town, remained on the farms they first occupied, and as a very general thing still occupy them themselves, or their heirs.

1793. On the 24th June, 1793, the freemen of this town, pursuant to legal notice, met at the house of Parley Davis, and made choice of Col. Jacob Davis, a delegate to represent said town in a State Convention, to deliberate upon amendments to the State Constitution, proposed by the Council of Censors.

1794. At a town meeting, held at the house of Parley Davis, in the centre of the town, on the 10th of March, 1794, among other things done, such as electing town officers, &c., a committee was raised to purchase two acres of ground, for a burying place, and to clear and prepare it for the purpose. At a town meeting, held Sept. 2d, 1794, the committee to purchase and prepare a burying ground reported, they had purchased two acres of ground, and felled the timber on it, for that purpose. It was situated on the road leading from Col. Davis' to Calais, within a mile of his house, and cost fifteen shillings per acre. At this meeting it was voted that the town will appoint a committee to divide said town into school districts. The first school house was built near the house where Judge Redfield now resides, and was afterwards burnt. Parley Davis kept the first school in the settlement, at his own house, consisting perhaps of twenty scholars.

1794. This year, 1794, a tax of five pence on the pound was laid on the grand list, to pay a debt of £47 4s. 11d. which had accrued for the support of John Marsh, who was lame, and had been for some time.

1795. At a town meeting held on the 16th day of March, 1795, among other transactions it was voted, unanimously, Officers of the town to serve with- out pay. "that all the town officers, serve the town the ensuing

1795.

Officers  
elected.

year, without fee or reward,"—a vote not likely, we think, to excite great political competition. The following persons were appointed under that rule:—David Wing, Jr. Esq., Town Clerk; Jacob Davis, Esq., Capt. Barnabas Doty, Mr. Joseph Woodworth, Lieut. Andrew Nealy, and Capt. Isaac Putnam, Selectmen; James Hawkins, First Constable and Collector of town taxes; David Wing, Jr. Esq., Lieut. Andrew Nealy, Ziba Woodworth, Joseph Woodworth, and Joseph Wing, Listers; Iram Nye, Grand Juryman; Ziba Woodworth, Leather Sealer; Major Parley Davis, Pound Keeper; Joshua Wiggin, Tything Man; Major Parley Davis, John Cutler, Daniel Woodworth, Daniel Woods, Lemuel McKnight, Benjamin Nash, and Mark Nelson, Haywards; James Hawkins, Truman West, and Joseph Woodworth, Fence Viewers; Thomas Davis, Jonathan Cutler, Hezekiah Davis, Caleb Bennett, Lemuel Brooks, John Templeton, and Andrew Nealy, Surveyors of Highways; Capt. Barnabas Doty, Sealer of Weights and Measures; and David Wing, Auditor to settle accounts with the Town Treasurer.

At this meeting also, it was determined to pay Miss Peabody, (now Mrs. Parley Davis,) an additional sum for nursing and doctoring John Marsh; as it seems she was dissatisfied with what the town had voted her for services,—declaring that her *practice* was worth more where she formerly lived—Cambridge, Vt.—and that she had suffered greatly in her finances, by taking charge of said Marsh. This reconsideration of her case was made upon the report of Col. Davis, who had been appointed a committee to enquire into the value of her former practice.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

At a town meeting, held March 14th, 1796, a committee previously appointed for that purpose, reported, (and the report was adopted,) "That the centre of the town, or place for building town public buildings, be on Major Davis's land, not far from his barn—he turning out four acres of land for a common," &c. The meeting also made choice of a committee, of which Col. Jacob Davis was chairman, to stick a stake where the public buildings of said town shall be erected, to fix bounds for the common, and take a deed of the same, &c. &c.

First magistrate. December 15th, 1796, Joseph Wing was nominated by ballot to the office of a Justice of the Peace, by a meeting of the inhabitants of the town, and Col. Davis, the Representative to the General Assembly, was requested to use his influence with the Assembly to have him appointed;—and he was appointed,—I think the first Justice the town ever had. (See Appendix B.)

1799 to 1814. March 27th, 1799, is the first intimation I find of this town being included within the bounds of Caledonia County, previous to this it being comprehended in Orange County. The County of Washington was incorporated Nov. 1st, 1810, by the name of Jefferson County; organised Dec. 1st, 1811; and altered to its present name, Nov. 8, 1814. The first name was given to it when the friends of Jefferson predominated in the General Assembly, says Gen. Davis. The first County Judges were Ezra Butler, Charles Bulkley, and Seth Putnam. David Harrington was the first Judge of Probate.

1800. At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town, legally warned, Jan. 16, 1800, Voted, to choose a committee of

First Judges  
of the county  
and probate  
courts.

three persons, Arthur Daggett, Parley Davis, and Jerath-  
 mel B. Wheeler, Esqrs., for the purpose of employing a  
 teacher of religion, &c. Voted, that the town will indem-  
 nify the committee for such expense as they shall be at in  
 procuring a preacher. This committee procured the services  
 of such persons to preach as they were able; but no  
 one was employed for any length of time, until the Rev.  
 Calvin Brown was hired. Most of the stated religious  
 services were held in the barn of Gen. Davis, at the cen-  
 ter of the town. Previous to this, the Rev. Mr. Hobart,  
 who became the settled Pastor of the town of Berlin, in  
 1798, preached occasionally at funerals, and at other  
 times, even as early as Sept. 13th, 1796, on which day he  
 "preached all day in the house of Judge Wing, in the  
 Village." On the 15th December, 1798, he preached a  
 funeral sermon at Mr. Robert Gifford's,\* up the branch, on <sup>First death.</sup>  
 the death of his first born, aged four months. This is  
 supposed to have been the first death that ever happened  
 in the town after its settlement.† Samuel Edwards was  
 the first adult person that died in the town. Mrs. Clarissa <sup>1789.</sup>  
 Worthington, the wife of Hon. George Worthington and <sup>First birth.</sup>  
 daughter of Col. Jacob Davis, was the first child born in  
 the town—Sept. 22d, 1789. John Hawkins, son to  
 James and Susanna Hawkins, born March 25th, 1791,  
 was the first male child born in town. The first recorded <sup>1791.</sup>  
 marriage in the town was that of Jacob Davis Jr., of Mont-  
<sup>First mar-  
 riage.</sup>

\*This family lived on the same lot, that old Mr. Hatch does now,—in a house which now stands on Main street, occupied by Mr. Town,—it having been removed from its original position.

†The first death after the settlement of the place was that of a child of Enoch Cate, from quinsy, Nov. 4th, 1794.

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER. pelier, and Caty Taplin, of Berlin, Oct. 3d, 1791. Ceremony performed by John Taplin, Justice of the Peace.

**1800.** At a meeting of the town, held March 13th, 1800, "Voted, that the money now received, or that may be received the present year, as rent for lands leased belonging to the right granted by charter for the social worship of God, be divided amongst the different sects or persuasions of people in Montpelier, according to the number of male polls, over the age of twenty-one years, in each society, and that the said money be appropriated for the uses intended by charter." And "Voted, that the said money arising as aforesaid be paid over to the committee appointed the 16th January last, to procure a preacher in Montpelier."

**Population.** In 1800 the population of the town had increased to the number of 890, so that at an election held in September of this year for Governor, Isaac Tichenor received fifty-nine votes, Paul Brigham, Esq. two votes, Doctor Edward Lamb one vote.

**Militia.** About this time a military company was organized, consisting of more than seventy men, mostly young men under thirty years of age, and a number of them had been soldiers in the Revolution. Of this company Parley Davis was captain.

**First framed house.** The inhabitants, in their first settlement, spread themselves into every part of the township. The first frame raised in the town\* was that commonly known as "the Willoway place," on the road leading from the village past

\* I am informed that persons from seven miles distance were included among those invited to aid in raising this house. James Hawkins was the owner.

Mrs. Howard's—though this house was not finished until after the jail-house was built by Col. Davis. The third frame house was that standing north of the paper-mill, erected by Dr. Fry. In felling timber for this house a man had his jaw badly broken, and he was carried into Col. Davis's new house for dressing. The first store in town was opened in this house.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

About the year 1794, a Circulating Library was established at the center of the town, of nearly two hundred volumes, which was used freely by the inhabitants.— From this Library were excluded all novels, and all strictly religious books; a measure most likely to be influential in giving a peculiar character to the readers. It is said great harmony prevailed among the inhabitants for the first ten years, all seeming desirous of promoting each other's temporal welfare.

1794.  
Circulating Library.

In 1788, Col. Davis erected a saw-mill, and next year a grist-mill, on the Little North Branch, at the falls around which now stand Waterman's starch factory and Wainright's iron foundry.

1788.  
First mills.

In 1791, Dec. 8d, the first ball ever held in the settlement was on Thanksgiving Day evening.\* It was at the house of Col. Davis; from which, early on the following morning, as four persons, two males and two females, were returning home and attempting to cross Onion River, in a canoe, they were thrown into the river, the water being high and rapid, and two of the company—a Mr. Brooks and a Miss Hobart—were drowned. The body of the female was found the next day; the body of the male was not found.

1791.  
First ball.

\* The first Thanksgiving ever held in the settlement.

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER. until several months after. The place, at which they attempted to cross the river, was near the house of Mr. Jones, in Berlin. Rev. Mr. Lyman, of Brookfield, preached the funeral sermon on this mournful occasion.

First tavern, physicians, merchants, lawyers, &c. The first tavern was kept in a building since burnt, standing on the site of the Union House, by David Wing.

(See appendix, C.) The first physicians who lived in the settlement were Doctors Pierce and Vincent.—(See appendix, D.) The first lawyer, Mr. Bulkley.—(See appendix, E.) The first merchant, a Dr. Fry, in the house north of the paper-mill.—(See appendix, F.) The first blacksmith, James Hawkins. Abel Knapp, now living in Berlin, was the first brick-maker.

1806 to 1842. The first newspaper\* was commenced in the year 1806, by Clark Brown, in a house back of Judge Prentiss's, and was called the "Vermont Precursor."—This was continued until September, 1807, when it was purchased by Samuel Goss, and called "The Vermont Watchman." In October, 1810, it was purchased by E. P. Walton and Mark Goss, and by them published six years. It afterwards became the property of E. P. Walton, by whom, and his sons, it is continued to the present time. "The Freeman's Press" was commenced about the year 1813, by Derrick Sibley, and by him and Sereno Wright continued two or three years. The "Vermont Patriot" was commenced, January, 1826, by George W. Hill, and is continued by J. T. Marston. The "State Journal" was published from 1830 to 1836, by Knapp & Jewett; and in January, 1839, the "Voice of Freedom"

\* This information as to newspapers was furnished by Gen. E. P. Walton.

was commenced by C. L. Knapp, and continued by him until 1842, when it passed into the hands of the Vermont Anti-Slavery Society. The "Universalist Watchman," first published at Woodstock, in 1829, by Wm. Bell, was removed to Montpelier, and is continued by Eli Ballou.— The "Temperance Star" was published two years, 1841—2, by the Vermont Temperance Society. The "Reformed Drunkard" was commenced in 1842, by F. A. McDowell, and is now changed to the title of "The Reformer." A monthly literary and religious work was commenced in 1838, by J. M. Stearns, entitled "The Green Mountain Emporium," and continued something more than one year, was then removed to Middlebury, and is discontinued. "Walton's Vermont Register," an annual, was commenced in 1818, by E. P. Walton,—has been published twenty-five years, and is continued by the original publisher and his sons. "The Daily Journal," embracing the proceedings of the Legislature and the news of the day, is annually published by E. P. Walton and Sons, during the sessions of the General Assembly of Vermont.

Nov. 7th, 1800, the "Trustees of Montpelier Academy" were incorporated.\* A building was soon after erected, about thirty-six feet by forty-four, two stories high, designed for a teacher's family and for school rooms. In October or November, 1813, on the petition of the corporators and others, the corporation was changed to a county establishment, and named "The Trustees of Wash-

\* The original Trustees, named in the statute, were Messrs. Jacob Davis, Charles Bulkley, David Wing, Jr., Jerathmell B. Wheeler, and Thomas West, Jr.

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER. ton County Grammar School." The Legislature then appropriated the rents of the Grammar School Lands lying in said county to aid the institution. In January, 1822, the building was burnt. In 1823 the present brick building was erected, at an expense of about \$1600; about \$800 of which was paid by voluntary subscription in the county, —the principal part from citizens of this Village; in addition to which, the citizens of this village have at sundry times subscribed and paid nearly six hundred dollars, for procuring philosophical and chemical apparatus, and a bell for the institution. The preceptors employed, previously to 1815, were James McWhorter, James Dean, Benton Pixley, Ira Hill, and Thomas Heald; since then, Justus W. French, — White, Heman Rood, John Stevens, Jonathan C. Southmayd, (Mr. S. for about twelve years,) Joseph B. Eastman, A. G. Wood, A. G. Pease, Calvin Pease, (who continued four years,) and the present instructors, J. H. Morse and R. S. Hale. Various assistants have been employed at different times, male and female.

Montpelier the seat of government. 1805. This town was made the seat of government for the state, by an act passed Nov. 8th, 1805, and became the shire town of the County. When this act was passed, the General Assembly sat at Danville. Judge Ware was the representative of the town that year, and for several successive years. No little wisdom was found necessary for those who were favorable to the measure, to bring it about successfully, amid the conflicting claims set up for its location in other towns. The act directed, that the General Assembly should hold its session for 1808 at Montpelier; so that the sessions of 1806 and 1807,—the former held at

Middlebury, and the latter at Woodstock,—presented opportunities to the opposers of the act to attempt its repeal.

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER

1808.

Such attempts were made, unsuccessfully, each year. In 1808, the General Assembly met at Montpelier for the first time, in the State House, which had been erected for the purpose. During this session, some faint attempts were made to remove the seat of government, but it was found to be in vain,—the leaders of the attempt declaring, (as I have been informed,) “That the ladies of Montpelier made their *Plumb Puddings* too good, to induce the members to withdraw their patronage.”

The old state house.

The old State House was a wooden building, fifty by seventy feet, with posts thirty-six feet high, and cost about \$6000. It was erected near where Col. Jacob Davis, many years before, had positively declared it would stand, and not far from the site of the present granite building.

The present beautiful State House, 1836.

The present beautiful State House,—a credit to the commonwealth, and the projectors

The new state house.

of the building—was finished in 1836; in the fall of which year the General Assembly first held its meetings in it. The act which passed the Legislature, to build a new State House at Montpelier, and made an appropriation for the same, was powerfully opposed. Windsor and Burlington both set up claims, and offered to build a new edifice at each place, at their own expense, provided the Assembly would meet alternately in those towns. On the other hand, those friendly to the building of a permanent edifice in this town, demonstrated clearly, among other things, that there would be an annual saving to the state of a considerable amount by having the Capitol permanently near its center. The citizens of this town gave \$15,000 to

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER. wards the present building, which cost about \$130,000.  
(See appendix, G.)

1808. The first election sermon, preached to the Legislature in  
<sup>First elec-</sup>  
<sup>tion sermon.</sup> this town, was by Rev. Sylvanus Haynes, Pastor of the  
Baptist church in Middletown,—Text, Prov. 14: 34,—  
“ Righteousness exalteth a nation : but sin is a reproach to  
any people.”

1802 In 1802, the dysentery prevailed fatally throughout this  
to  
1813. town, and in many other parts of the State. In 1806, the  
<sup>Prevalent</sup>  
<sup>diseases.</sup> typhus fever prevailed extensively, of which Judge Wing and  
Esq. Moseley died that year. In 1810 and 1811, the spotted  
fever prevailed in this and other towns of the state. In  
1813, the typhus fever prevailed again fatally in this town,  
and throughout the region, and from a record which I find,  
it appears 73 persons died within the bounds of the town  
that year—which would be a proportion of one from every  
26 persons, their being about 2000 in the town.

Warning off. I find that as late at least as 1811, it was a custom in  
this town, for the selectmen, or any two of them, once every  
year or so, to issue a warrant to the constable of the  
town, ordering him to warn certain individuals in the  
town forthwith to depart from it ; and in this warning,  
among others, I find the names of our most respectable  
citizens. Whereupon the constable would make his return  
of what he had done in the matter, what day he had served  
the summons on individuals to depart, &c ; and one  
return was, that he (the constable) had failed to serve the  
warning on a certain individual, for he had “ ELOPED !”

1813. In 1813, the burying ground now occupied, lying near  
<sup>Second bur-</sup>  
<sup>al ground.</sup> Mr. Samuel Goss's house, was laid out, and Mrs. Loomis,

the first wife of Judge Loomis, was the first person interred HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER. there.

A Village Library was established in Montpelier, the 1814. 28th February, 1814, and has been continued more or less <sup>Village Li-  
brary.</sup> prosperously ever since.

A Lyceum was established in 1827 or 1828, which con- 1827. tinued several years, and accumulated a library, which was <sup>Lyceum.</sup> afterwards given to the Academy.

I would here mention several items, which should have <sup>Miscellane-  
ous.</sup> been alluded to before. The town, though generally situated on high ground, has been remarkable for its exemption from high winds, especially during its early settlement. The snow during the winter would generally fall deep, but lie level and still. Bears were rather plenty, and also foxes, but there were few wolves. Clark Stevens brought the first drove of sheep into the town, from Pomfret. Lands usually brought \$1,00 per acre, to be paid for in grain and stock. The first conveyance, that I find recorded was by James Hawkins to Ziba Woodworth, of one hundred and twenty-five acres of land, in the second division of lots. It is believed that Joel Dimmock and David Cole now live on said lot. Potatoes scarce in the first year or two after the settlement. (See appendix, H.)

I have deferred speaking of the religious history of this <sup>Religious  
History.</sup> town, to this place, that I might present it in a more embodied form.

There is no source of information on this subject, upon which I can draw with more confidence than upon a short account of a revival of religion, given by the Rev. Mr. Wright, and which is found in a number of the "Ad-

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER.  
Religious History. viser, or Vermont Evangelical Magazine," for 1811. From that account I extract the following statement, in the language of the writer.

1800. "The first settlers not being disposed to encourage an attention to religious concerns, no religious order was observed in the place for a number of years. The inhabitants, as might be expected, became generally dissipated, and a deplorable state of morals was the result. The Sabbath, instead of being observed as a day of holy rest, was improved as a season of relaxation from ordinary business, only for the purpose of amusement, convivial entertainments, at public houses, or shops ; sleigh riding, trading or gambling ; and the language of profanity was the common dialect. Previous to the year 1800, there had rarely been any preaching in the town, except by the Methodists. At this time the inhabitants, having increased to a very considerable number, (890,) were divided into various sects, the largest of which, I believe, professed Universalism. Those of the Congregational order, or rather, such as were disposed to support the worship of that order, living principally in and about the Village, petitioned the Legislature to be incorporated into a local society ; but the measure excited opposition from the other parts of the town, and was abandoned. Afterwards, several candidates were successfully employed in the Village for short periods, and whatever sums were expended above those arising from public funds, were advanced by about five or six individuals. Meetings were very thinly attended, few paying any respect to them, or to the Sabbath."

In this candid and frank description of the state of morals, made by the writer, from whom I have quoted, we are not to suppose all the inhabitants of the town were included. There were many, even then, among them of excellent character, and some, of approved piety—especially some females, of whom it would be invidious in me to speak more particularly.

This state of things continued till the latter part of the year 1804, when a number of the inhabitants of the Village met and adopted the following resolutions, viz : 1804.

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER.

Religious History.

Public meeting on the observance of the sabbath.

“ That we will take all due and reasonable measures, to enforce the laws of this state respecting the due observation of the Sabbath, or Lord’s day, so far as to prevent unnecessary labor and recreation on said day, in this vicinity.

“ Also resolved, that we will constantly, when circumstances will admit of it; attend meeting every Sabbath, at the Academy in Montpelier, and promote the attendance of our families and friends; and when we are destitute of preaching, we will attend to singing, and reading of sermons; and that in token of our assent to the foregoing resolutions, the individuals assenting thereto sign their names to this instrument.”

“ These resolutions were signed by twenty-nine persons; and from them may be dated the first symptoms of order. Religion as yet had no place here; prayer was not heard in any family in the Village, and very rarely in their meetings on the Sabbath. In the year 1806-7, a preacher was employed in the Village, but left the place in the autumn of 1807.” 1806-7. Preacher employed.

Mr. Chester Wright was invited to spend a few Sabbaths with this people, in the winter of 1808, and although there were only three or four professors of religion in the Village, and many things looked unpromising, as a field of labor for a minister, still there were some things in the appearance of the assembly on the Sabbath,—the fact that the people had had but little religious instruction, and the desire of the people to have him stay,—which induced Mr. Wright to conclude, that the providence of God called him to bestow his services there; and which more than twenty-two years of faithful labors served to confirm.

1808. In July, 1808, the first Congregational church in Mont-

pelier was organized, and consisted at that time of the seventeen following persons, viz: Amasa Brown and wife, from Templeton, Massachusetts; Sylvanus Baldwin, from Norwich, Vermont; Andrew Dodge, from Winchester, N. H.; Heraldus Estabrooks, from Lebanon, N. H.; Samuel Goss, from Hollis, N. H.; Timothy Hatch and wife, from Falmouth, Mass., (Cape Cod); Joseph Howes and wife, from Norwich, Vt.; Solomon Lewis and wife, from Cape Cod, Mass.; Bachsbeba Burbank, from Milbury, Mass.; Lydia Davis, from Cape Cod, Mass.; Polly Baker, from Cape Cod, Mass.; Rebecca Persons, from Chesterfield, N. H.; Sarah Wiggins, from Exeter, N. H.

At this organization, Rev. Elijah Lyman, Pastor of the church at Brookfield, presided, and Mr. Samuel Goss was clerk. During this year twelve other members were received into the church, viz: Henry Howes, Ruth Jewett, Hannah Woodworth, Ebenezer Parker, Lydia Parker, Joseph Freeman, Patty Reed, Fanny Tyler, Nabby Wilder,

Roxa Brooks, Mrs. Boyden, and Jemima Hatch. Two of these were received by letter.

On the 16th day of August, 1809, Mr. Wright, who had studied theology with Dr. Burton of Thetford, in this state, was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed over this church.

In pursuance to letters missive, the following churches were represented in the council at the ordination of Mr. Wright, viz: Hanover, Thetford, Vershire, Brookfield, Barre, Chelsea, and Plainfield. Samuel Goss and Sylvanus Baldwin were the committee on the part of the church, who, with a committee from the society, made the necessary arrangements for the ordination and installation.

From this time the church and congregation increased steadily, until 1810, when a precious revival of religion ensued, and continued for several months with great interest. In April, 1810, says the Rev. Mr. Wright, "two young ladies having for some months been exercised with serious impressions, obtained a hope of forgiveness through the blood of a Saviour." These persons in open conference, where there was an unusual number of impenitent persons in attendance, stated their experience, in a simple and affectionate manner, and warned their youthful companions to flee from sin and embrace Jesus Christ. The work spread gradually, though not powerfully, from that time, in Montpelier, and across the river in Berlin, until May 18th, when at a conference held in Berlin, the work received an impulse, and continued to increase, until the whole population was more or less under its influence. Says Mr. Wright, speaking of the work at this stage of its progress,

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.Religious  
History.

1809.

Ordination of  
Rev. Chester  
Wright.Revival of  
1810.

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER. "On Monday morning, walking the streets, I perceived that instead of the usual noise and bustle, the place was still as a Sabbath ; and with emotions not to be described, I was constrained to exclaim, ' How dreadful is this place ! Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.' " He adds, also, " The progress of the work was (now) rapid, but we saw no appearance of disorder or wild enthusiasm. A deep conviction of guilt, rather than a fearful apprehension of danger, was the cause of that distress which the subjects of the work experienced, and which, in many cases, was remarkably pungent and severe. Some for a considerable season were sensible of the most violent opposition to God, his cause and people, and felt their enmity rise peculiarly in times of attendance on public worship, and on witnessing the enjoyment of such as had obtained peace in believing." The number added to the church, during the first year after the revival declined, was thirty-three. No age was excluded from a share in the work, from fifty years to twelve. But much the largest share had fallen to the age of between eighteen and twenty-four. Perhaps some present may date back their own spiritual life to that hour.

1809. In 1809, the church in Falmouth, Massachusetts, presented to the church in this town, a set of vessels for the communion, by the hand of Mr. Timothy Hatch, which was gratefully received, and a letter of thanks returned to them.

About this time, also, a monthly meeting was established by a vote of the church, to be holden on the first Friday of every month, which is still observed substantially.

There have been three confessions of Faith adopted by this church, all of them essentially the same in doctrine,—which was orthodox,—varying mostly in form and phraseology. The first was adopted at its organization, in June, 1808; the second in February, 1817,—corresponding with that of the churches of the Royalton association; the third was a revision of the second, in February, 1832, and at that time there was also a revision of the Rules of the church, which Rules had been adopted in 1823. The last Confession of Faith and Covenant, revised, with the Rules, are now in force in the church, and are in the hands of the members in a printed form.

In February, 1817, fifty-nine members were added to this church, as the fruits of a precious revival during the previous year; and in March, 1827, some twenty-five persons were added to the church as the fruit of another revival some time before. Some of you, perhaps, date your spiritual birth from one of those interesting periods.

Sylvanus Baldwin was the first deacon chosen in this church, and his election was February 2d, 1810.

At a meeting of the church, Nov. 27th, 1826, the following resolution was adopted, viz: "Resolved, that this church, as a body, will hold itself bound to use its best endeavors to promote the interests of Sabbath School education in this Village." J. C. Southmayd was appointed Superintendent, and Joseph Howes, Librarian. The following persons were appointed a board of managers for the school, and to secure the attendance of the children: Jeduthun Loomis, George Worthington, James Spalding, Sylvanus Baldwin, H. H. Seelye, E. P. Walton, John

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER

Religious  
History.

1808  
to  
1832.

Confession of  
Faith.

Revivals of  
1817  
and  
1827.

1810.  
First deacon.

1826.  
Sabbath  
Schools.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.Religious  
History.

Wood, Samuel Goss, Joshua Y. Vail, Timothy Merrill and John Spalding. Some ten years previous to this record, Sabbath Schools were in use in this Village, and as early 1816. as 1816 a Sabbath School celebration was held at the State House. (See Appendix, I.)

First baptism  
of children.

The first children, who received baptism in the church, are recorded by the following names—Pascal Paoli, and Frances, children of Elijah and Fanny Tyler; Thomas, Hezekiah Hutchins, and Eliza, children of Thomas and Patty Reed; Juliett Grenville, Elizabeth Spalding, and Elisha Paine, children of Nathan and Ruth Jewett; Edwin, son of Joseph and Mrs. Freeman; and William, son of Joseph and Patty Howes.

Church disci-  
pline.

The discipline of this church has been as rigid and salutary, perhaps, as most churches of the land, though but some twelve or fourteen persons have been excommunicated, who have not been restored.

Number of  
members,&c.

The number of members who have died in this church is estimated to be at least one hundred and seven. Since its organization, fifteen members of this church have become Ministers of the Gospel, and several members have been Missionaries to the heathen. There have been connected with this church, in all, about seven hundred and fifty communicants. The present number of nominal members is three hundred and twenty.

1808

to  
1820.Places of  
meeting.First church  
built.

The church was organized in the old Academy, and held its meetings there on the Sabbath, until the first State House was completed; then they occupied the State House on the Sabbath, until the Brick Church was completed, in 1820. The Brick Church was built by a society,

called the "Montpelier Church Society," and is now owned by them. The plan was drawn, the slips sold, and the building erected from the avails of the slips. Mr. Sylvanus Baldwin was the contractor, and it cost between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Its dimensions are sixty by seventy-five feet. Rev. Mr. Wright preached the first sermon in it, from 1 Samuel, 7. 12. "Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, (the stone of help,) saying, hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

Religious  
History.

1820.

Brick church  
built.

The Rev. Mr. Wright was dismissed from the pastoral charge of this church, Dec. 22d, 1830, and died in the spring of 1840. His useful life was mostly spent in the service of this people. That he was a faithful servant of the Lord, as a minister and as a man, is the uniform verdict of those who knew him; and that is reputation enough, and eulogy enough, for any man. He sleeps in yonder burying place, with many of those who were attendants on his preaching—and will "break ground with them," and doubtless with some of us, in the morning of the resurrection! (See Appendix, J.)

Dismission &  
death of Rev.  
Mr. Wright.

In 1828, the Montpelier Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church was set off from the Barre Circuit of the same church, and Rev. J. G. Dow appointed the station preacher. His services were to be devoted half the time in Montpelier Village, and half the time at the Center Meeting-house. The Meeting-house at the Center of the town was built in the years 1825-6; the Chapel in the Village in 1837. The first preacher sent into the town by the Conference, was the Rev. Mr. Sneething, and his suc-

1828.  
Methodist  
Episcopal  
Church.

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER. Religious History. cessors were annually appointed to Barre Circuit, until this station was set off. There was a class formed in the Village some two or three years previous to 1828, and was supplied with preaching from the adjoining Circuits, in the old State House; and even as early as 1795, a class was formed in this town, and some of the members are now living.\*

1835. Free Congregational C'ch. The "Free Congregational Church" was organized in this Village, January 21st, 1835,—twelve members being dismissed from the First Congregational Church for that purpose, and at their own request. Subsequently its number has been increased by frequent additions every year, under the ministrations of the Rev. Sherman Kellogg.

1803. Meeting of Friends. In 1803, the first organization of the meeting of "Friends," took place in this town—though the few families of Friends in the town had met regularly, for worship, four or five years previously to that time. They were the first religious society organized in the town; and, ever since their organization, have had regularly two weekly meetings in the east part of the town. The number of these families is at present quite small.†

1831. Universalist Societies. There are three Universalist Societies in this town; one in the Village, formed in 1831, July 31st, which is small; one at the Center of the town, which is also small; and one of considerable size at East Montpelier. It is supposed there was a Universalist Society in this town previously to 1831, but I have not been able to learn when.‡

\* This information was furnished by the politeness of Mr. Henry Nutt.

† This was furnished by the politeness of Clark Stevens.

‡ Furnished by the politeness of Rev. Mr. Ballou.

There is a Free Will Baptist Church in the town, organized since 1830, (as I understand,) under the care of Rev. Zebina Young, but the details of its history I have been unable to obtain.

A neat Episcopal Church edifice has also been erected, 1842, within this year, in this Village, and will be occupied by Rev. George B. Manser.

In the foregoing history I have aimed to keep within the period of the first fifty years after 1780, in the main ; but the following few statistical facts I have thought appropriate to mention, as belonging to the present history of the town :—

The town of Montpelier has the largest population of any in the state except Burlington ; it has the greatest number of agriculturalists of any town save one, (Jamaica;) it has the greatest number of persons engaged in commerce but one town, (Burlington,) and with that it is equal ; it has the largest number of persons in the learned professions ; it has the largest number of scholars in the schools except one town, (Woodstock;) it has the largest number of persons engaged in manufactures and trades, of any town in the state. Its population, according to the census of 1840, is 3725.\*

The population of Montpelier, from its earliest settlement, has been characterized by industry and thrift.—They came into the country generally poor, but with strong muscles, and a good fund of common sense.—Necessity, at first doubtless, had a prominent agency in

\* These statistics are gathered from the returns of the U. S. Census of 1840, published in Walton's Vermont Register for 1842.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.

Religious  
History.

Baptist C.H.

Episcopal  
Church.

Miscellane-  
ous.

Character of  
the people.

making them industrious, and habit has done much to confirm them in this; until they are considered generally, (so far as I can ascertain,) remarkably a business population—greatly devoted to their business, sometimes it is thought perhaps to excess—especially in this Village.

**Conclusion.** During the progress of the settlement of this town, nor during any period of its history, have I been able to hear of any *remarkable* visitations of Divine Judgments, on its inhabitants, or any portion of them. God has seemed to bless your labors; and your cup has abounded with comforts. He has heaped on you unmerited mercies, for which you should be thankful. Let us then this day, in the review of what God has done for *you*, render appropriate praise and honor to His Almighty Sovereign Grace. Let us lift up our hearts with our hands to Him in worship now, with the thousands who this day have assembled in several of our sister states, professedly to render homage to the God of Mercies. Our country is still free. Our civil and religious institutions move on in harmony. The laws of the land are firmly executed in our midst upon transgressors, and honored suitably by the obedient. No wasting sickness has stalked through our streets; and we have occasion to mourn only the death of our friends, in numbers not unusual. Plenty has crowned the labors of the husbandmen throughout the commonwealth—and commerce and the arts are no more impeded, than might reasonably be expected in the unsettled state of a general currency, arising from the great expansion of credit and speculation for several years past. The prospects of war with a powerful nation, which at our last anniversary threatened

us so fearfully, have all passed away, and an honorable treaty established between the parties. Exciting and important political elections have been held among the people in this and sister states, and submission and order have abided the results. Indeed, we have great occasion to be thankful. Let us then, I repeat, offer our devout thanks to the Giver of all Good—with the earnest entreaty that our past sins may be forgiven—that we may be enabled to live lives of Godliness, in time to come. Let us not forget the poor and needy in our midst—but give of our abundance, to warm their hearts and enliven their joys. Let us not forget the millions of our enslaved countrymen, who are held in bondage by a cruel power in this christian land; and let us feel, and pray, and act for them as becometh those who are sensible of their wrongs, and have influence to deliver them. Let us pray God, to remember our country, still, in mercy—to preserve it from all intestine evil and foreign invasion—to continue to us the sunshine and the rain, and crown the seasons with His goodness. Let us invoke the descent of the Holy Ghost upon our churches, and a revival of pure religion through our land, and the universal reign of righteousness. This, if done devoutly, with sincere sorrow for past offences, will secure the blessings we crave, through Jesus Christ our Lord—and finally fit us for our translation to that world where all is Peace and Love forever.

HISTORY OF  
MONTPELIER.  
Conclusion.



## A P P E N D I X.

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### A.

#### LIST OF FREEMEN, WHO VOTED AT THE FIRST ELECTION.

Benjamin Ingals Wheeler,	Hiram Peck,*	Ziba Woodworth,*
David Parsons,	James Hawkins,*	Jerathmel B. Wheeler,*
Parley Davis,	James Taggart,*	Smith Stevens,
Ebenezer Dodge,*	John Templeton,*	Charles Stevens,*
Solomon Dodge,*	Elisha Cummins,	Edmund Doty,
Nathaniel Peck,*	Jonathan Cutler,*	Duncan Young,*
David Wing,*	Charles McCloud,*	Freeman West.*
Lemuel Brooks,	Col. Jacob Davis,*	
Clark Stevens,	Isaac Putnam,*	
Jonathan Snow,	Nathaniel Davis,	* Deceased.

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### B.

#### LETTER FROM GEN. PARLEY DAVIS TO REV. JOHN GRIDLEY.

MONTPELIER, December 17, 1842.

REV. J. GRIDLEY:

DEAR SIR,—The Vermont Watchman informs us that your Thanksgiving Sermon is to be published, for which I am very much gratified. I consider it remarkably correct, considering that the information was collected by one who had no personal knowledge of the transactions. I now recollect of only two mistakes, which you may probably wish to rectify. From circumstances which, when I have an opportunity, I will make known to you, I am very certain that David Wing, Jr. was appointed a Justice of the Peace in the fall of 1793; at any rate, I think he was the first Justice. When David Wing, Jr. was appointed a Judge, Joseph Wing was appointed a Justice to supply the vacancy. The other case I would refer to is, that the first tavern house, and the one that David Wing, Jr. kept a

tavern in, was a two story house, built upon the old fashion of two front rooms and a kitchen back of them. It afterwards had large additions made to it, and was afterwards burnt. Col. Jacob Davis may have been the first Justice notwithstanding, for I recollect, in the very early settlement, that a young man, not an inhabitant, was tried for some petty crime,—I think for stealing,—at the tavern house, before Col. Jacob Davis, and was found guilty and fined, which he had no means to pay. A commutation of the punishment was offered him, which he accepted,—which was, that he should run from the tavern house until he crossed the bridge into Berlin, with a supple man to start behind him at a short distance, with a whip or stick, and apply it upon his back, if he could come within reach of him; and that he would never again return into Montpelier; this should be in full payment of the fine. Whether the Justice had any hand in this commutation, I cannot recollect, but I heard the trial, and saw the punishment inflicted, with many others, with much satisfaction.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

PARLEY DAVIS.

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C.

See preceding letter from Gen. Davis to Rev. Mr. Gridley.

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D.

LIST OF PHYSICIANS, &c.

BY DR. J. SPALDING.

Spalding Pierce,* Village.	Hart Smith,* Village.
Philip Vincent,* Town.	Seth Field, Village.
Edward Lamb, Village.	Azel Holmes, Village.
Jacob P. Vargeson,* Village.	Frederick W. Adams, Village.
Stephen Peabody,* Town.	Zebulon P. Burnham, Village.
Sylvester Day, Village.	Charles Clark, Town.
Samuel Prentiss,* Village.	Daniel Corliss, Town.
Phineas Woodbury,* Village.	Milo L. Burnham, Town.
Nathan B. Spalding, Village.	Sumner Putnam, Town.
Nathaniel C. King, Town.	Thomas C. Taplin, Dentist, Village.
James Spalding, Village.	J. M. Gregory, Dentist, Village.
Eleazer Hamblin,* Village.	Ralph Kilbourn, Dentist, Village.
Julius Y. Dewey, Village.	
Benjamin Walton, Village.	

\* Deceased.

## E.

## LIST OF ATTORNEYS:

BY D. P. THOMPSON, ESQ.

Charles Bulkley, deceased in 1836.	Calvin J. Keith;
Cyrus Ware,	Azel Spalding,
Samuel Prentiss,	Samuel B. Prentiss;
Nicholas Baylies, removed in 1835 or '36.	Nicholas Baylies, Jr.
William Upham,	George B. Manser,
Timothy Merrill, deceased in 1837.	J. T. Marston,
J. Y. Vail, Clerk of County Court about 20 years.	Isaac F. Redfield,
Jeduthun Loomis,	H. W. Heaton,
James Lynde, removed in 1817 or '18; and, died about 1830.	John H. Prentiss;
Thomas Reed,	Charles Reed,
Azro Loomis, deceased in 1831.	Wm. K. Upham;
H. H. Reed,	J. A. Vail,
L. B. Peck, admitted in 1836.	Stillman Churchill, appointed Clerk of County Court in 1838.
J. P. Miller,	R. S. M. Bouchette,
D. P. Thompson, admitted in 1825.	George Reed,
O. H. Smith, admitted in 1825.	A. W. Kenney.

## F.

## LIST OF MERCHANTS AND TRADERS:

BY DANIEL BALDWIN, ESQ.

1791, Dr. Frye,	James H. Langdon,
1794, Col. Joseph Hutchins,	Uriah H. Orvis,
1796, Joseph & Wm. Hutchins,	1807, Dunbar & Bradford,
1799, Hubbard & Cadwell,	1808, C. W. Houghton,
1802, W. I. Cadwell,	1808, Josiah Parks,
1802, Robbins & Freeman,	1809, John Crosby,
1803, Forbes & Langdon,	1810, L. G. C. Bowles,
Hubbard & Wing,	1810, Walton & Goss,
1807, T. & R. Hubbard,	1810, French & Dodge;

1811, Jacob F. Dodge,  
 1811, Langdon & Barnard,  
 1813, John Spalding,  
 1814, Hubbard & Spalding,  
 1814, D. Baldwin & Co.,  
   Austin Arms,  
   Emerson & Wilkins,  
   Luther Bugbee,  
   Charles Story,  
 1815, Wright & Sibley,  
 1816, E. P. Walton & G. S. Walton,  
 1816, French & Harvey,  
 1817, Sylvester Larabee,  
 1817, E. P. Walton,  
 1817, H. Y. Barnes,  
 1821, John Barnard,  
 1821, Langdon & Spalding,  
 1821, Chester Hubbard,  
 1821, Barnard & Dutton,  
 1821, W. I. Cadwell & Son,  
 1822, Hubbard & Jewett,  
 1822, Roger Hubbard,  
 1823, Dutton & Baylies,  
   W. W. Cadwell,  
 1824, Hubbard & Kimball,  
 1824, T. M. Taylor,  
 1824, Warren Swift,  
 1824, Langdon, Spalding & Co.,  
   Otis Standish,  
 1825, Baldwin, Hutchins & Co.,  
   Cadwell & Gouldsberry,  
 1825, Taylor & Prentiss,  
   Dodge & Standish,  
 1826, Wiggin & Seeley,  
 1826, George W. Hill,  
 1827, Luther Cross,  
   Joseph Wiggins,  
   Goss & Wiggins,  
 1828, Luther Cross & Co.,  
 1828, Hubbard, Jewett & Co.,  
 1828, Spalding, Storrs & Co.,  
 1828, Baylies & Hutchins,  
 1829, N. Harvey,  
 1830, Baldwin & Prentiss,  
 1831, Charles Lyman,  
 1831, I. S. & J. Town,  
 1831, W. W. Cadwell,  
 1831, Hart & Riker,  
 1831, J. M. & B. H. Snow,  
 1831, E. H. Prentiss,  
 1832, Wm. & M. P. Hutchins,  
 1833, Emerson, Lamb & Co.,  
 1833, Snow, Bancroft & Co.,  
 1833, Snow & Bancroft,  
   James Pierco & Co.,  
 1833, Silver & Pierce,  
 1833, Standish D. Barns,  
 1833, G. W. Ware,  
 1833, Baldwin & Scott,  
 1834, Jewett & Howes,  
 1834, Burbank & Hubbard,  
 1834, Baylies & Hart,  
 1834, Ebenezer Colburn,  
 1834, S. B. Flint,  
 1834, Hutchins & Wright,  
   Wm. Clark,  
 1835, H. N. Baylies & Co.,  
 1835, Harvey & Harran,  
 1835, J. & C. Spalding,  
 1835, Silver, Pierce & Co.,  
 1835, Silas Burbank Jr.,  
 1835, Ira Day,  
 1835, A. A. Prentiss,  
 1836, Jewett, Howes & Co.,  
 1836, Lamb, Palmer & Co.,  
   Emerson & Russell,  
 1836, Baylies & Storrs,  
 1837, Bancroft & Riker,  
 1837, C. & L. L. Lamb,  
 1837, C. Alexander,  
 1838, Spaldings & Foster,  
 1838, Langdon & Wright,  
 1838, Town & Witherell,  
 1838, John S. Abbott,  
 1839, Baylies & Goss,  
 1839, S. P. Redfield,  
 1839, J. T. Marston,  
 1839, Storrs & Langdon,  
 1839, E. P. Walton & Sons,  
 1840, Charles Spalding,  
 1840, Silver, Lamb & Co.,  
 1840, Harran & Dodge,  
 1841, H. N. Baylies,  
 1841, Jewett & Howes,  
 1841, Baldwin, Scott & Co.,  
 1841, Lyman & King,  
 1841, J. H. Ramsdell,  
 1841, Cross, Hyde & Co.,  
 1842, Cross, Day & Co.,  
 1842, Benj. Day & Co.,  
 1842, French & Bancroft,  
 1842, Ellis, Wilder & Co.,  
 1842, Clark & Collins.

## G.

## SUBSCRIPTION LIST, ON WHICH \$15,000 WAS PAID FOR THE STATE-HOUSE.

Spalding, Storrs & Co.,	\$1,300	G. C. Taplin,	\$50
Hubbard & Jewett,	1,000	John Parker,	75
Luther Cross & Co.,	1,000	Ellis Nye,	50
Mahlon Cottrell,	1,000	Arunah Waterman,	50
Timothy Hubbard,	500	Samuel Upham,	50
Heirs of J. Langdon,	500	Joel Gouldsberry,	50
Th. & H. H. Reed,	500	G. W. Scott,	50
Daniel Baldwin,	350	Holden Putnam,	50
W. & M. P. Hutchins,	300	Elijah Holden,	10
Silas C. French,	300	John Bryant,	10
Joseph Reed,	300	Joseph Chapin Jr.,	10
H. Y. Barnes,	250	J. L. & J. S. Scovil,	30
W. W. Cadwell,	225	William Dewey,	30
Jeduthun Loomis,	200	Osmon Dewey,	15
A. & O. Pitkin,	200	Daniel Chandler,	20
Samuel Prentiss,	200	Z. C. Dewey,	10
R. R. Keith,	200	Peleg Stiles,	5
H. N. Baylies,	200	Calvin Farrar,	10
William Mann,	200	Ira Cummins,	6
J. Howes & Son,	200	Thomas Ayres Jr.,	10
Timothy Merrill,	150	Ezekiel Smith,	20
William Upham,	150	Seth P. Braman,	10
James Spalding,	150	Leonard Ellis,	20
Alfred Wainwright,	150	Asa Andrews,	25
Nehemiah Harvey,	125	David Poor,	20
Zenas Wood,	125	Hiram Sibley,	10
C. & J. Wood,	125	Harris Bugbee,	10
J. Y. Vail,	100	John E. Woodworth,	10
Ira Owen,	100	Nathaniel Ormsby,	15
Cross, Hyde & Co.,	100	Ezekiel Burnham,	10
Nathan Jewett,	100	George W. Jacobs,	5
E. P. Walton,	100	Joel Davis,	5
O. H. Smith,	100	Lewis Burnham,	5
George W. Hill,	100	Joel B. Mower,	5
Nicholas Baylies,	100	Lorenzo Gray,	5
D. P. Thompson,	100	Reuben E. Persons,	10
Goss, Cobb & Sons,	100	Royal Wheeler,	25
Charles Lyman,	100	Lovewell Warren,	25
Jonathan Shepard,	100	Samuel Jones,	15
Edward Lamb,	75	Addison Peck,	10
M. Tryon,	75	John Winslow,	10
Knapp & Jewett,	75	Cyrus Wheeler,	25
H. N. Taplin,	75	Solomon and Wm. Lewis,	15
Azel Spalding,	75	Edmund Langdon,	10
Rufus Campbell,	50	Ezra Bassett,	10
Benjamin Paddock,	50	Apollos Metcalf,	20
S. S. Post,	50	Sue White,	10
J. M. & B. H. Snow,	50	Cyrus Stoddard,	10
L. & A. S. Sherman	75	Wm. G. Hadlock,	5
I. Riker & Son,	75	Richard Stevens,	5
James Howland,	50	John Putnam,	10

B. I. Wheeler,	\$25	Samuel Templeton,	\$10
Josiah Freeman,	5	Elisha Spear,	10
Silas Clark,	20	Prince Williams,	5
Jonathan Holt,	10	Solon Lawrence,	5
Lyman Woodworth,	5	Quincy A. Wood,	10
John Vincent,	12	Stephen Foster,	10
Oliver Merritt,	4	Robert Dodge,	2
William Vincent,	10	John Ayers,	10
Andrew Dodge,	10	Ralph Andrews,	5
Charles Doty,	5	Parley Davis,	25
Daniel Russell,	10	Lemuel McKnight,	15
Jacob Putnam,	30	Nahum Kelton,	15
Joseph Chapin,	10	Willard Cutler,	20
Daniel Bassett,	10	Darius Boyden,	25
Rufus Montagu,	15	John Phinney,	25
Lorenzo Willard,	10	Jera Wheelock,	30
Hosea Minott,	10	Elisha and John Hubbard,	10
John M'Dearmed,	5	Sheffield Hayward,	10
Dudley Culver,	5	Sheffield Hayward Jr.,	15
Danforth W. Stiles,	15	Solomon Nye Jr.,	5
Joel H. Templeton,	5	Ira Andrus,	5
Joseph S. Daniels,	5	Elijah Nye Jr.,	20
Nathaniel Wentworth,	10	Jabez Ellis,	25
Howard Minott,	5	John F. Ellis,	10
Samuel Demeritt,	10	Eli Stone,	5
Ezra Marsh,	8	Levi Colby,	12
iram Nye,	25	David Nye,	5
William Steward,	10	Orion Clark,	10
Joseph Somerby,	12	Harriet Barnet,	10
Culver V. Lane,	10	M. B. Taplin,	10
Rodney Commins,	5	Otis Montague,	12
Amos Culver,	10	Leonard Judd,	10
Aaron Bullock,	10	David Sheldon,	5
L. & B. Hammatt,	5	Roger S. Gilman,	10
Josiah Benjamin,	20	Lucius Houghton,	10
Amos Strong,	10	Ezra Cushman,	5
Zebulon Lee,	5	H. G. McIntyre,	10
Simon Cummins,	20	Thomas Stowell,	25
Cyrus Morse,	10	Lemuel Stickney,	10
Salvenus Morse,	10	Salvin K. Collins,	15
Elias Wakefield,	10	T. Williams,	10
Benjamin Ellis,	10	N. Barnet,	5
John Morgan,	10	Levi Spalding,	10
Gideon Mann,	5	Jason Carpenter,	10
Nicholas Bennett,	5	Levi Wilder,	10
James Dodge,	6	Orange Smith,	6
Simeon Slatton,	5	R. O. Stoddard,	5
Lovell Kelton,	5	Charles Stone,	5
Cyrenus Short,	3	Cephas Carpenter,	30
James Allen,	10	Abner Child,	5
Isaac Cate,	5	Wm. Hoadley,	1
Arthur Dagget,	10	Barnabas Mayo,	10
Enoch Cate,	5	Ebenezer Johnson,	5
Larned Coburn,	10	Nathaniel Carpenter,	20
Willard Shepard,		John Twing,	15

David Jones,	10	Paul Templeton,	5
John Stewart,	15	Samuel Ingalls,	15
Peter Hubbard,	15	Samuel Clark,	12
Cyrus Bayley,	15	Ira McElroy,	15
Abijah Howard,	10	Stephen Smith,	15
John Gray Jr.,	10	Lewis McElroy,	10
Nathaniel Jacobs,	5	Moses H. Sawyer,	10
Alvan McKnight,	10	Elijah Holden,	10
Hubbard Willey,	15	Calvin Clark,	15
Henry Williams,	5	Daniel Taylor jr.	10
Isaac Colby,	10	E. Hewett,	50
Isaac Vincent,	15	Z. Dewey,	15
Moses Shelden,	10	Milton Brown,	25
Lemuel Brooks,	50	S. Phelps,	15
James Morse,	10	Jonas Goodenow,	20
Comfort B. Rich,	5	Chester Nye,	25
Ephraim Taylor,	5	Hubbard Nye,	25
Leander Shepard,	10	Davis & Farewell,	25
Caleb Bliss,	10	Daniel Houghton,	20
Ebenezer Bayley,	20	Roger Hubbard gave the sand used.	

## H,

## NOTE OF FIRES AND FLOODS.

BY E. P. WALTON, JR.

The Village of Montpelier was incorporated in 1818, the limits embracing one mile square. Previous to 1813, the people of the Village deemed it necessary to take measures to guard against fires, and a fire-company was formed, and the citizens were required to provide fire-buckets. In Dec. 1813, occurred the first severe calamity by fire, a cotton factory being burnt, standing on the ground now occupied by Mr. H. Richardson's cloth-dressing works. A subscription was then made, (the principal inhabitants giving \$20 each,) and in Feb. 1814, the first fire-engine was purchased; costing \$380. There are now three organized fire companies, with an engine to each—two suction engines, with 800 feet of hose; and there is also an organized hook and ladder company. The principal fires which have occurred in the Village were as follows:—

Dec. 1813, a cotton factory, at the falls on Onion River. Dec. 1818, a paper mill and clothing works, on the same ground. January, 1822, the Academy. March 29, 1826, a woolen factory and grist-mill, at the falls on North Branch. A workman in the factory, named Robert Patterson, perished in the flames; and Araunah Waterman (one of the proprietors,) and Joel Mead, narrowly escaped a like awful death. They leaped from the windows of the factory—one at the height of 27 feet, and the other of 35 feet—upon the rocks in the stream. May, 1827, a store of Wiggins & Seely, opposite the brick church. April 21, 1828, paper mill of Goss & Reed, on the Berlin side of Onion River. Oct. 1834, oil-mill and saw-mill, in the former of which was Mr. W. Sprague's machine shop—on the Berlin side of Onion River. Feb. 1835, the Union House, on the ground now occupied by the hotel of that name.

There have been five other fires of less consequence, viz.—a school-house near the present residence of Judge Redfield; the dwelling-house of Seth Parsons, in the same vicinity, in 1815; Joseph Howes'

shop, Sept. 1829, on the ground now occupied by the Village Hotel; a blacksmith's shop occupied by Mr. Fisk, on the Berlin side of the river; and, in 1842, part of O. H. Smith's buildings.

For the length of time and size of the Village, this shows a remarkable exemption from severe calamities by fire. The Village has been subject, however, from its peculiar situation, to calamities of another character, *viz. floods*. These have frequently occurred, occasioning considerable inconvenience and some damage to property; and there have been three instances of severe losses.

March 24 and 25, 1826, the bridge over Onion River, where the arch bridge now stands, was swept away, together with the grist-mill of Mr. James H. Langdon. Sept. 5, 1828, the water in Onion River and North Branch rose suddenly four or five feet higher than ever before, and inundated nearly all of the Village. Two bridges on North Branch, and a barn, were swept away. July 27, 1830, a flood occurred still higher—by four or five inches—than that of 1828. The office of J. Y. Vail, two other small buildings and two bridges on North Branch were carried away. The office was recovered, and now stands near Mr. Vail's dwelling-house.

In later years, the severest floods have usually occurred in January—occasioned by sudden thawing of the snow, and breaking up of the ice in the streams.

## I.

### SABBATH SCHOOLS.

BY J. W. HOWES.

In 1816, three Sabbath Schools were organized in this place. One of them was held in the school house, near where the Methodist chapel now stands; one was held in the old Academy; the other in Mrs. Hutchins' (now J. Shepard's) dancing hall. These schools were conducted by committees, appointed for this purpose, with the assistance of teachers, and continued through the summer months only. In 1817, much interest was manifested in behalf of this cause. The number of schools was increased in the neighborhoods adjoining, and at the close of the season a public examination was held in the old State House. In 1820, after the completion of the Brick Church, the schools were united and met in the church. In 1822, a Society was formed—Rev. C. Wright, President, Joseph Howes, Librarian, and a board of Managers. At this time the first Library was purchased. In Nov. 1826, J. C. Southmayd was chosen the first Superintendent. (See resolution in the sermon.) In 1827, there were 25 teachers; in 1828, 24; and in 1831, 24. April, 1832, E. P. Walton was chosen Superintendent. At this time there were 23 teachers and 170 scholars. In the autumn of 1836, Jos. W. Howes was appointed Superintendent. In 1838, George B. Manser was appointed assistant Superintendent. In 1839, there were 205 scholars and 25 teachers; in 1840, 175 scholars and 23 teachers; in 1841, 204 scholars and 25 teachers; and in 1842, 219 scholars and 26 teachers.

An effort was made by the first pastor, (Rev. C. Wright,) for the religious instruction of the children and youth in 1809, and was continued at intervals for nearly six years.

The foregoing gives a brief view of the history of the Sabbath School connected with the First Congregational Church. On the organization of the Free Church, and also of the Methodist and Baptist

Churches, schools were established in connexion with them, and are continued. More recently, a school has also been established in connexion with the Episcopal Church.

## J.

## NOTICE OF REV. CHESTER WRIGHT.

*From the Boston Recorder, May 29, 1840.*

Mr. Wright was born in Hanover, N. H., Nov. 6, 1776. His father was a farmer and one of the first settlers in Hanover, and a very respectable and pious man, and for many years a Deacon in the Congregational church in that place. His mother was a very excellent and pious woman. They trained up their family in the fear of God, and had the happiness of seeing their children, with one exception, walking in the way in which they should go, and of witnessing the conversion of their son, the subject of this notice, at the age of 21, after he had purchased a farm for his future occupation and employment. But the Lord, "who called him out of darkness into his marvellous light," and "whose ways are not as our ways," had other and far more important services for him, and with the promptitude of Elijah when called by Elijah, he immediately quit his occupation, disposed of his worldly goods, and land, and the implements of husbandry, to prepare to preach the gospel.

His attention was now directed to the acquirement of a liberal education to fit him for the ministry, and he received the honors of Middlebury College in 1806. Soon after this he commenced the study of theology with the late Dr. Burton, of Thetford, Vt., and finished his course of study with Dr. Dwight, of New Haven. He was licensed to preach the gospel in 1808, and immediately commenced preaching in Montpelier, where no "church" then existed, and where religion and morals, at that time, were at the lowest ebb, and assisted the same year, in forming a church of 17 members.

In 1809, he was ordained the pastor of the first Congregational church and society in that place, and continued in the office more than twenty years, during which time the people were blessed with powerful revivals of religion, and the church increased from 17 to more than 400 members. The relation between him and his people was dissolved in 1830. In 1836, he was installed over the Congregational church and society in Hardwick, Vt., as their pastor, and continued in that office till his death at Montpelier.

His surviving brethren in the ministry and the members of the Congregational churches in Montpelier and Hardwick and the towns adjacent, mourn the death of one who was indeed a "Father in Israel," with whom they were associated for many years, and whose ministrations and counsels will be embalmed in their affections and memories forever.

The people of Montpelier and Hardwick, will long cherish the remembrance of his faithful services in the ministry, and his frequent and affectionate pastoral visits and calls; and the pious inhabitants of the towns around them, will remember with gratitude to God their spiritual friend and benefactor, who so often broke unto them the bread of life, when they were few in number, destitute of the stated means of grace, and "scattered like sheep without a shepherd" over a new and thinly settled country.

As a pastor, Mr. Wright had few equals. His kindness and love to his people in all their various circumstances and situations in life, in prosperity and adversity, in sickness and health, were manifested in a manner peculiarly interesting, "and he became endeared to them by a thousand kind offices which must forever be unknown to the world." Mr. Wright was a distinguished philanthropist. He took a deep and lively interest in the education of the rising generation, and in every measure which had for its object the permanent benefit of mankind, and stood foremost in advocating and supporting all the benevolent enterprises of the day, and the advancement of that cause for which the Saviour bled and died.

He was frequently chosen by the ministers of Vermont, as their delegate to the conventions and associations of the clergy in other States, and was present at Plymouth in June last, as one of their delegates to the General Association of Congregational Ministers in Massachusetts. He was for many years, a member of the Board of Trustees of Middlebury College, and continued in that office till his death.

As a preacher, he was solemn and sincere, and faithful to the souls of his people. "His sermons were strictly evangelical, well composed, addressed much to the heart and conscience, and occasionally truly eloquent. His prayers breathed a spirit of deep humility and fervent piety.

"To his family he was all that can be comprehended in the best of husbands and most affectionate of parents." He was distinguished for humility, personal holiness, heavenly mindedness and fervent charity. His hospitality was unbounded, and he received his guests, and all who came, with a kindness and cordiality peculiarly his own.

Mr. Wright was endowed with distinguished talents and blessed with extensive usefulness, and the remembrance of his virtues will be imprinted in the memories and engraven on the hearts, of all his surviving relatives and friends.

He bore the decays of nature during his long illness, with Christian fortitude and entire resignation to the divine will, and was ready at all times, as he frequently expressed himself, to depart to be with Christ; and his end was as peaceful and happy as his life had been exemplary and useful to mankind.

"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

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The Rev. Samuel Hopkins succeeded Mr. Wright in the Pastorship to this church, and was ordained Oct. 26, 1831, and dismissed April 29, 1835.

Mr. Hopkins was succeeded by Rev. Buel W. Smith, who was ordained August 25, 1836; and dismissed July 15, 1840.

The Rev. John Gridley succeeded Mr. Smith, and was installed Dec. 15, 1841.





OCT 10 1888

~~DUE MAY 15 1888~~

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